

EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
DRAFT MINUTES OF 86th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30th May 2017.
St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Field End Road, Eastcote.

Present: Chairman Alison Holtorp (AH), **President** Chris Groom (CG), **Committee Members:** Alison Akerman, Keith Barnard, Carolyn Derecki, Alison Dungworth, Irene Groom (Secretary), David Harper, Linda Laurie, Ian Murray, David Payne, Jackie Redrup, Karen Spink. **Councillors:** Teji Barnes, Catherine Dann, Nick Denys, Becky Haggard, Michael White. **Speaker:** Squadron Leader James Tenniswood and Warrant Officer Evans, plus approximately 70 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Nick Hurd MP, Boris Johnson MP. Councillor Eddy Lavery. Deesha Chadha, Chris Hankin, Trevor Hyde, Anne Payne, David Stephens.

AH opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 86th AGM of the Eastcote Residents Association, thanked the church for the use of their facilities and introduced the Councillors present thanking them for their support attending our meetings and taking up issues with the council on our behalf.

Presentation

- CG introduced Squadron Leader James Tenniswood, Media and Communications Officer for RAF Northolt, the speaker for the evening. Squadron Leader Tenniswood gave a fascinating talk about the operation of the airfield. He described the wide range of services operated out of Northolt. There has been some speculation about closing RAF Northolt but the MOD have no plans to dispose of the site, as it is regarded as a core site for the RAF. The runway is breaking up and needs repairing so there will be a planned closure for six months in Spring 2018. During this period there will be no fixed wing commercial flights but helicopters flights will continue including the London Air Ambulance. Northolt has a Complaints service and the number is 0208-833-8909 or Out of Hours 0208-833-8915. He also reported that RAF Northolt is holding "Norfest" (Open Day) on the 22nd July 2017.
- AH then invited questions from the floor.
- AH then thanked Squadron Leader Tenniswood for a very interesting talk and then announced a short break before the AGM.

AGM

1. Minutes of the 85th AGM Proposed by Ian Murray, Seconded by Jackie Redrup. Agreed by a show of hands

2. Matters arising from minutes of 85th AGM meeting, not on the Agenda: There were no matters arising, (several written questions were submitted after the meeting and these were dealt with privately).

3. Chairman's Report: Alison Holtorp

AH reported that she had enjoyed an interesting first year as Chairman.

- Committee members attend meetings on behalf of residents, ask about anything that relates specifically to Eastcote and bring that information back to the committee and, via the minutes/website, to the residents'. It is also important to collect the views of residents; this is done by having regular meetings, both an AGM and Open Forum and via the Road Stewards, who are the public interface collecting subs and delivering newsletters. AH noted that it is important to aim for one road steward for every road, because then they become the bedrock of the association in that they collectively represent everyone and their views can be sampled to get a truly representative indication of the community voice. They can also help provide information, for example: the flooding last June.
- As part of the Eastcote Town Centre Improvement Scheme the council undertook to organize and create a blueprint for various entertainments in the high street, for example the Craft Fair, Halloween Treasure Hunt and Festive Window Competition, with a view to them being run in the future by a local group and in Eastcote's case that was deemed to be the Chamber of Commerce (CoC). At the end of December the Chairman of the CoC resigned and to date we do not know if anyone else has taken on that role. The Committee feels that they already put in a lot of time on their existing roles so for ERA to organize these events more volunteers will need to come forward and offer their services to support the Committee. This is something that will need to be discussed, maybe at the Open Forum. They are also costly to run, so in order to have these types of community events, we will have to discuss whether we fundraise and/or increase subs.
- Over the last year feedback from residents on the Town Centre Improvement plans mean that ERA will be supporting increased provision for seating, waste management, greening the high street and retention of the textured paving for the partially sighted. Whilst there has not been much support for ghost signage there has been some support for a reduction in the amount of street furniture including complaints about height of, or rather lack of height of, shop blinds. As yet we do not know what the council has in mind.

AH closed by observing that, despite all the complaints, we do have a relatively thriving high street with very few empty shops and, thanks to those who do volunteer, we have beautiful green spaces to enjoy. Of particular note, she congratulated the FoEHG who received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2016. Proposed Chris Groom – Seconded Irene Groom.

4. Treasurer's Report: Alison Dungworth (AD)

AD took over the position of ERA Treasurer late last year and reported on the finances of the ERA for the year to 31 March 2017.

Income & Expenditure Account - The net income for the year is £762 compared to £1,000 in the previous year i.e. a decrease of approx. £240. This is due to an income increase of approx. £280 and expenditure increase of £520. The details are as follows:

Income - Subscriptions are slightly up. AD thanked the Senior Road Steward, Alison Akerman, and all the Road Stewards for their continued hard work delivering newsletters and collecting subs.

Also The ERA received a one-off discretionary payment from HSBC of £250 (switching of signatories to include AD was somewhat challenging and following complaint they kindly offered £250 by way of an apology!)

Expenditure - On the expenditure side costs have, as in previous years, been kept to a minimum. AD thanked all the committee members for their continued support by meeting their own costs incurred whilst carrying out their roles. She requested that any resident queries should be submitted by email to a Committee member or by leaving a landline number if at all possible as this will help minimise cost.

Overall costs increased by £520 which included :

- Increased meeting costs - to cover the October Open Forum and Road Stewards Meetings £140
- Increase in Postage, Printing & Stationary £90 – to cover printing costs for new ERA leaflets
- Increase in Public Liability Insurance - £100
- Increase in Donations - £355 – which was primarily due to the ERA contribution to a defibrillator for the Eastcote Cricket Club of £300. Also gave to Royal British Legion for Wreaths, Friends of Eastcote House Gardens and The London Green Belt Council.

These increased costs were partially offset by decrease in printing costs by £175 for the Newsletter.

Expenditure on Events for the Christmas Lights and towards the Christmas Fair were in line with the previous year.

Net Surplus - So the year closed with a net surplus of £762 – ERA is keen to support local groups by way of a small donation so AD invited residents to encourage such groups to apply either by completing a form or attending a monthly committee meeting.

Balance Sheet - Finally the Balance Sheet of the ERA continues to be in a healthy financial position. ERA has two bank accounts, a current account and a savings account, which at the end of the financial year had an aggregate of £18k. Bank statements for these accounts and all paperwork supporting the income and expenditure have been reviewed by a non-committee member of the ERA. AD thanked Caroline Reid for carrying out this role and the Accounts have been signed off to that effect.

Proposed Tom Sharkey – Seconded Keith Barnard.

5. Senior Road Stewards Report: Alison Akerman (AA)

- AA reported that we had 4 long-standing Stewards, one whom was also an Area Steward, as well as 2 others needing to give up their roles. She conveyed grateful thanks and best wishes to them all. AA welcomed 8 new Stewards to the team.
- Unfortunately, there are a few roads where ERA had members in previous years but had not managed to collect subscriptions last year; the aim is to pick up on these again this year. ERA continues to need new Stewards and importantly at least two people to come forward to be Area Stewards (a liaison role) in the areas beyond the station.
- AA was very pleased to report that the efforts of the Road Stewarding Team had resulted in ERA ending the year with 1900 members (24 more than last year) so, bearing in mind the roads missed this year ERA hopes to get nearer to achieving its goal of 2000 members!
- Area Stewards, and if they wish Road Stewards, are being encouraged to pay subscriptions in by direct bank transfer or directly into the bank.
- However it is very important that monies paid in are notified to AA and AD. AA reported on a mystery of £28 being banked on 30th March and requested that if anyone could explain this they should let her know.

Two gatherings of Stewards were held last year in The Stables at Eastcote House Gardens - an afternoon tea and an evening meet, with a talk on the Colne Valley. Both were very pleasant social occasions for Stewards and members of the Committee to mingle. There will be similar events this year and AA will be sending out invitations very shortly.

6. Planning Report: Jackie Redrup (JR)

JR introduced herself as the Volunteer Planning Representative for ERA and stated that, as usual, she would not be referring to specific residential properties in her report. If anyone had such queries, they were most welcome to seek her out either at the end of the meeting or, of course, to contact her at any time.

- During this last year, there have been a number of commercial property applications that do affect our wider community and with which ERA has been involved, making representations to Planning,

supporting residents, working closely with the Eastcote Conservation Panel and, in some cases, other residents' associations. JR itemised these applications and asked if anyone had any questions on them, stating that updates are provided by way of the monthly planning report and ERA committee meeting minutes. (No questions were raised at the meeting, although afterwards, several residents did individually talk to JR about specific applications, both commercial and residential - she will follow these up and act on them, where the parameters of the application allow.

AH thanked, on behalf of the residents', all the other committee members. They also put in a lot of time and effort looking after the interests of, and supporting Eastcote Residents'. A lot of this is behind the scenes, answering a diverse range of queries and pointing people in the right direction.

AH also thanked the committee for all the help and support they had given her this year, and their patience filling in the gaps.

7. Election of officers

AH read out the list of nominations

President Christopher Groom

Proposed Alison Holtorp – Seconded Ian Murray

Auditor Caroline Reid.

Proposed Alison Holtorp – Seconded Jackie Redrup

Officers

For re-election

Chairman – Alison Holtorp

Secretary – Irene Groom

Senior Road Steward – Alison Akerman

Proposed Ian Murray – Seconded Keith Barnard.

New Treasurer – Alison Dungworth

Proposed Alison Holtorp – Seconded Jackie Redrup

Vacant - Vice Chairman

Executive Committee

Elizabeth Beggs, Gawain Cox and Linda Laurie have decided to stand down from the committee and AH thanked them for all their hard work and said that she looked forward to their continued involvement with the association.

For re-election

Keith Barnard - Parks and Open Spaces

Deesha Chadha

Carolyn Derecki

Chris Hankin - Police

David Harper - Newsletter Editor

Ian Murray - Transport

David Payne

Jackie Redrup – Planning

Karen Spink

Proposed Grace McGivers - Seconded by Tom Sharkey

New Malcolm Penny

Proposed Keith Barnard – Seconded David Harper

Arthur Plummer – Newsletter Designer

Proposed Chris Groom – Seconded Linda Laurie

Vacant - Web Administrator

All the above nominations were and adopted by a show of hands.

The constitution also allows for the appointment of assistants and sub-committees, so if you or any one you know would be interested in helping, either on a regular or one-off basis then please volunteer – many hands make light work. AH thanked the most recent volunteers – one to maintain the noticeboards and another to post out newsletters.

8. Any Other Business

- Dates for future meetings are on ERA notice boards and website. They are on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 in the Elsie Fischer Rooms at the back of the car park for St Lawrence Church. These meetings are open to all.
- This Saturday is the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens, Summer Picnic in the Park. So bring your own Picnic and enjoy the day's activities.
- **OPEN FORUM** – Tuesday 24th October at St. Lawrence Church Hall.

- AH thanked LL and CD for arranging the refreshments and all the committee for their part in making this evening run smoothly.
- AH thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe journey home.

The meeting finished at 10.00pm.

The date of the next ordinary meeting is WEDNESDAY 29th June 2016 at Elsie Fischer Room, St. Lawrence Church, Bridle Road, at 7.30pm

Please send Apologies to Irene Groom on Telephone No. 0208 866 0985 (answer phone) or by e-mail.